(b) and (c) No, Sir. The highest coal stock of CIL was 29.95 million tonnes as on 1.4.1999 as compared to present coal stock of 26.09 million tonnes (provisional) as on 1.3.2006. CIL has increased the sale of coal under e-auction and the Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) have been advised to stock coal at the normative level in order to liquidate the stock.

Committee on revision of Royalty on Coal

1789. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee that has been set up to look into the Revision of Royalty given on coal has submitted its report;

(b) the recommendations made by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister with regard to payment of royalty on coal at ad-valorem basis or the tonnage basis;

(c) whether it is also not a fact that the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957 obligate the Central Government to revise the royalty in very three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for Government not increasing the royalty automatically after every three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has made a recommendation wherein royalty rate is sought to be fixed as a combination of a fixed and a variable component.

(c) and (d) The Section-9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. As such, it is not mandatory to revise the royalty after every three years. The Government revises the rate of royalty on coal after taking into consideration, the views of all stake holders *viz.* the coal producing States, the major coal consumers and keeping in mind the impact of such revision on the overall economic growth of the country.